

HONORING HELEN M. HIESTAND
FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY
SERVICE TO THE SECOND AND
SIXTH DISTRICT OF OHIO

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Helen Hiestand for her years of able and dedicated public service to the people of Ohio's Second and Sixth Congressional Districts.

Helen served as my District Field Representative for over 6 years. In this role, she served as Service Academy Director; Caseworker; and my representative in the local communities.

Helen's hallmark is professionalism. Throughout her service, Helen not only became a vital member of our office team, she was known for her dedication and commitment to solving problems for people. Helen earned a reputation for keeping in close touch with our local communities and building bridges between people and the Federal Government. She met the highest standards for efficiency and responsiveness in completing casework; served as liaison with local, State and Federal agencies and liaison with local elected officials; and represented me at local events when Congressional business prevented me from attending.

Prior to her service to the Second District, she served former Congressman Bob McEwen as District Office Manager and former Congressman Frank Cremeans as District Representative and Office Manager in Ohio's Sixth Congressional District. We were fortunate to have her join my office in 1997 as District Field Representative.

Helen is also devoted to her family. Her husband, Ed; daughter, Janis; and son, Joe, are pleased that she now has more time to spend with them. Also very active in her church, Helen has served in the United Methodist Women organization; as a Circle Leader; with the Chancel Choir and as a soloist. She has also been active in Emmaus Community, an ecumenical organization.

Helen attended Riverside City College in Riverside, CA, and the University of Texas at Austin.

Although we miss her greatly, we are privileged to have worked with Helen. Her ethical and professional standards, commitment, and dedication have served the Second and Sixth Districts well. We wish her good health and much success in her retirement and whatever she chooses to do next.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEANUT
MONTH

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Peanut Month—a time to celebrate one of America's favorite snacks and an important sector of our agricultural economy. Roasted in the shell for a ballpark snack, ground into peanut butter or

tossed in a salad or stir-fry, peanuts find their way into everything from breakfast to dessert.

National Peanut Month had its beginnings as National Peanut Week in 1941. It was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1974.

It is believed that peanuts originated as a food source in Brazil or Peru in about 950 B.C. The demand for peanuts increased in the United States during the Civil War, when soldiers used them as food. Today, Americans eat 2.4 billion pounds of peanuts each year.

Because peanuts are not nuts but legumes, they grow in the ground and not on trees. The peanut plant grows above the ground, but the actual peanuts grow below the ground. Depending on the variety, peanuts can be ready to harvest in about 4 to 5 months after planting.

George Washington Carver is considered by many to be the father of the peanut industry. He began his peanut research in 1903. He suggested to farmers that they rotate their cotton plants and cultivate peanuts.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nine states produce peanuts: New Mexico, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Valencia peanuts are an economic mainstay of the High Plains. Peanuts arrived in New Mexico in the early 1900s. The first Valencia peanut grown in the state was the Tennessee Red, named for its red seed coat. Valencias may derive their name from a connection to Valencia, Spain. Today, the primary varieties grown in New Mexico include Valencia A and Valencia C.

Until last year, my home state of New Mexico grew more than 80 percent of the Nation's Valencia peanuts. Valencias, sometimes called ballpark nuts, account for less than 1 percent of U.S. peanut production, but they have been a financial mainstay for many farmers in New Mexico for more than five decades.

Known for their sweetness, Valencias usually have three or more kernels per pod. Well suited to the eastern New Mexico region, the red-skinned peanuts have a shorter growing season than the three other market types: runner, Virginia and Spanish peanuts.

Valencia peanuts have been an almost perfect crop for eastern New Mexico, particularly Roosevelt, Curry and Lea counties. Valencias do so well in the Clovis-Portales area because they face much less disease pressure than in other states. Valencias also thrive in the area's sandy soils.

Many of our peanut farmers in New Mexico have struggled in recent years with a devastating drought. Nonetheless, in 2002, New Mexico's peanut producers still farmed 18,000 acres of peanuts valued at more than \$10 million.

Because of the importance of the peanut sector to my state's economy and traditions, I have worked to see that our interests have a place at the table. The 2002 farm bill established an 18-member board to provide consultation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on implementing the peanut provisions contained in that law.

I wrote a letter to President Bush urging him to appoint Wayne Hardin and Jimmie Shearer to the board. I made this recommendation after both gentlemen were recommended to me by the New Mexico Peanut Growers Association and the New Mexico Peanut Research Board. I was delighted when the President ac-

cepted my counsel. Wayne and Jimmie are to be commended for their service.

Coincidentally, March is also National Nutrition Month—a great time to recognize the nutritional value of peanuts. Peanuts contain mainly unsaturated fat and are low in saturated fat. They contain fiber and magnesium. Peanuts have more plant protein than any other nut. They are also rich in vitamin E, folate, potassium, zinc, phytosterols and antioxidants. Additionally, diets high in nut consumption have also been shown to have a beneficial effect on lowering cholesterol. With the embrace of low-carbohydrate dieting, peanuts are enjoying an amazing revival.

As my colleagues well know, I am very interested in preventive health care. I was pleased by a 2002 study conducted by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health that concluded women who eat peanuts or peanut butter five times a week can reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by almost 20 percent. Of course, peanuts alone are not a panacea for good health. Physical activity, losing weight and changing dietary habits are key to helping stay healthy.

Mr. Speaker, National Peanut Month provides us the opportunity to recognize the benefits of peanuts as well as the hard work of all the people in the peanut industry. I ask my colleagues to join with me in this celebration.

IN HONOR OF HARRISON POST 282
AMERICAN LEGION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harrison Post 282 American Legion on its 65th Anniversary. An anniversary celebration was held on Saturday, January 17, 2004, at Post 282 Headquarters, 8 Patterson Street, Harrison, New Jersey. The ceremony was presided over by Commander Edwin Marshman, Sr.

On September 16, 1919, the United States Congress chartered the American Legion. The purpose of the American Legion is to serve as a community organization sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, to foster and promote the ideals of patriotism, and to preserve the memories of wars and battles fought by our courageous men and women in uniform. The American Legion is vital to the preservation and celebration of American heritage. It understands the power and value of our history. Yesterday, these brave soldiers served in the Armed Services to preserve America; today, they serve in our communities to preserve our heritage.

Although the majority of the service provided by the American Legion is geared towards veterans' issues, its service does not stop there. The American Legion is heavily involved in children and youth and community service activities. Since its inception in 1919, the American Legion has been a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 scouting units involving more than 64,000 youths.

Harrison Post 282 was formed in 1939 by a group of dedicated Harrison veterans who

wished to foster the goals of the American Legion in their community. Harrison Post 282 received its permanent charter from the American Legion in 1941. In its 65 years, Harrison Post 282 has continuously upheld the goals of the American Legion, helping countless veterans and serving as a pillar of the Harrison community in a variety of activities.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Harrison Post 282 American Legion and in honoring its outstanding commitment to veterans and their community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EAST HOLBROOK, ROCKY FORD, AND EM-MANUEL MENNONITE CHURCHES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to three Mennonite churches that have enriched the Southeastern Colorado community for 100 years. The East Holbrook, Rocky Ford, and Emmanuel Mennonite churches in Colorado have been instrumental in educating citizens about religion and providing healthcare to the Pueblo community. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing these institutions tremendous service to their Colorado community.

In 1903, the Mennonites settled in East Holbrook and the Fairmount area in my state. Over the years, the group has established a school, a tuberculosis sanitarium, and a hospital. The Mennonites have been outstanding members of the community who have met the increasing needs of their community by adding a School of Nursing and a new congregation for Spanish-speaking residents in Cheraw and La Junta, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, East Holbrook, Rocky Ford, and Emmanuel Mennonite churches are composed of dedicated individuals who use their resources to improve the lives of many Pueblos. The Mennonites have demonstrated a love for humanity that resonates with their compassionate and selfless service to their town. The Mennonite enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK FEE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, the PTO is in the midst of a crisis. Funded by user fees instead of taxpayers, the PTO generates \$1 billion in revenues each year. This success has been an Achilles' heel—the Administration treats the PTO as a cash cow and diverts hundreds of millions of dollars every year for other programs. This is making it difficult for the PTO to hire or even retain qualified examiners to review patent applications. Our technological advancement and our economy can only suffer if Congress sits idly by while this happens.

This bill remedies this by ensuring the PTO can spend all of the fees it collects. I believe ending fee diversion is one of the most important signals we can send to spur innovation and encourage new technologies and new drugs.

The bill also incorporates a proposal of mine and Representative KAPTUR's to maintain a fee deduction for small businesses. Small businesses are important to this country's economy, and we should give them every incentive to innovate and seek protection for those innovations.

Having said that, I still have concerns about outsourcing. The bill would give the PTO the ability to hire private contractors to do patent searches. This is problematic for a variety of reasons. First, searching old patents and journals is one of the core functions of the PTO, giving that job to private companies would be like shutting down the FBI and having someone else conduct criminal investigations for the Justice Department. Second, no one questions the accuracy and integrity of the work of PTO employees, so the need for contractors is questionable. Also, there could be conflicts of interest if the employee of a contractor doing searches has his or her own patent applications pending.

While the bill will be improved to prevent outsourcing to foreign companies and to limit conflicts of interest, some of my concerns remain.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL H. WILLIAM CARD FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join the Harlingen Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in saluting the extraordinary life and service of Colonel William "Bill" Card. Colonel Card is a modern day "Renaissance man". He has been a citizen, soldier, educator, entrepreneur, community leader, and mayor, and is an example of what is best in America.

Bill Card was born into a military family where dedication to service and country were deeply ingrained. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was sworn in by his father, Brigadier General Horace W. Card. While still in college, he was called to duty aboard the USS *Pennsylvania* berthed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It was on Sunday, December 7, 1941 that Bill was first tested in battle as he manned the guns to defend his ship against enemy aircraft. In 1942, Bill was commissioned as a second lieutenant and by 1944 was a captain and took part in the campaign of Saipan Island.

After the war, Bill continued to serve in the Marines as an artillery instructor. When the Korean War broke out, Captain Card took part in the landing at Inchon and the liberation of Seoul. By 1954, Bill was a Lieutenant Colonel and served as Battalion Commander, Training and Test Regiment at Quantico, Virginia. In 1962, he was deployed to Cuba during the missile crisis and was subsequently promoted to full colonel.

In 1968, Colonel Card came to Harlingen, Texas as director of Development of the Marine Military Academy. As an instructor, he was always willing to share his knowledge and

the values of integrity, honor, courage, dedication and perseverance with the young cadets. Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps, he began a new career as a businessman and community leader in Harlingen.

Bill Card jumped right in to community affairs. He served as the Mayor of Harlingen from 1987 to 1998. He has served as the President of the Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Harlingen Rotary Club, the United Fund, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. He has been an officer in numerous organizations including the Easter Seal Chapter of Cameron County, the American Heart Association, the Lower Rio Grande Valley YWCA, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Marine Military Academy and the Harlingen Community Care Emergency Foundation. He currently serves on the Rio Grande Valley Health Services District Board, a new entity seeking to resolve the border region's indigent health care crisis. This list goes on and on.

He has deservedly received numerous awards including Citizen of the Year of the Rio Grande Council of the Boy Scouts, the 1973 "Boss of the Year" by the National Secretaries Association and the 1980 "Banker of the Year" for Small Business Administration Region VI. He even received the "Road Hand Award" from the Texas Department of Transportation for proving his ability and stamina in toiling long, strenuous hours for Texas roads. He has also never forgotten his first love, the Marines, and spearheaded the capital campaign that raised \$14 million for new barracks, classrooms, student services and athletic facilities for the Marine Military Academy.

Bill Card never does anything half-heartedly. The discipline and focus he learned in the Marines has been carried with him in civilian life. The people of Harlingen and the Rio Grande Valley are deeply indebted to him for his commitment to improving life for every resident. As a result of his leadership, Harlingen completed a new air terminal at Valley International Airport. The city has a new public library, a new public museum and an expanded municipal auditorium. His vision of thinking of the Rio Grande Valley as one economic entity has brought economic growth and increased cooperation to the whole region.

Despite accomplishing enough for two lifetimes, Bill and his wife Garrison have found the time to raise four beautiful children and are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren. I am very proud to call him my friend. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Colonel Card and expressing our gratitude for his distinguished service to South Texas and to this great Nation.

D.C. CIRCUIT COURT RULING CONCERNING TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATIONS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, two days ago the D.C. Circuit Court ordered the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to design new